

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. A-70910/DJB/
Attorney Matter No. 461124-01
Application No. 09/936

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 9-11 and 18 are pending in the application, with claim 10 being the independent claim. Claims 1 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully submits the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 8 has been rendered moot by cancellation thereof. Support for the subject matter of the amended claims is contained in the application as originally filed. Applicant submits the foregoing amendments do not raise new issues and present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1 and is now allowable. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9, 11, 18, which now depend from claim 10, are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 10.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extension of time or additional claim and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No: 50-2319 (Order No. 461124-00058; Docket No. A-70910/DJB/VEJ).

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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